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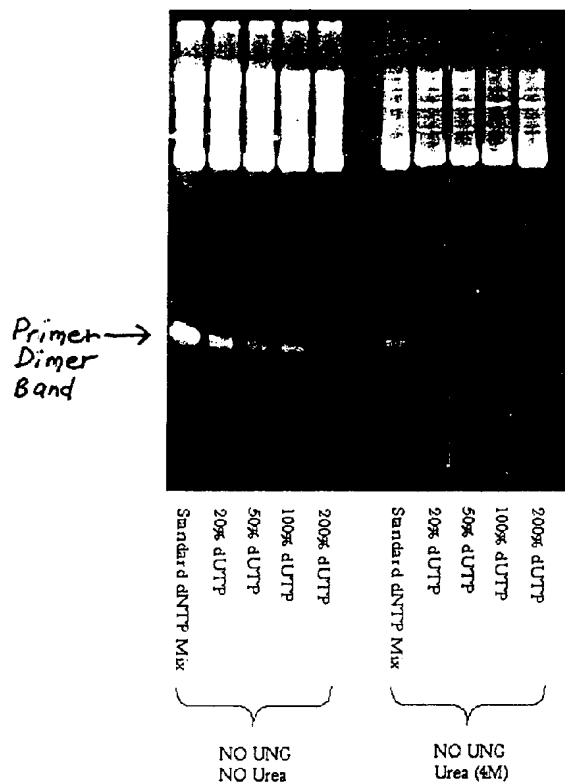
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(54) Title: DUTP BASED COMPOSITIONS FOR REDUCING PRIMER-AGGREGATE FORMATION DURING NUCLEIC  
ACID AMPLIFICATION



(57) Abstract: Methods and compositions are provided for enhanced specificity and sensitivity of amplification reaction mixtures. Compositions in accordance with the present invention provide for reduced formation of primer-aggregates during amplification reactions. Reaction mixes include dNTPs, where a portion of the dNTPs has been replaced with an unconventional nucleotide, e.g., dUTP. Unconventional nucleotide concentrations are typically between 10 % to 50 % of the concentration of one of the standard dNTP. In some compositions the unconventional nucleotide is dUTP which replaces from about 10 % to about 50 % of the dTTP in the dNTP mix.



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